

Appln No. 10/551,369
Amdt date August 12, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 13, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office action mailed April 13, 2009. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-10 are presently in the application for examination.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant submits that the amendments to claim 1 now overcome this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi, European Published Patent Application EP 0 837 400 A2 (hereinafter "Hayashi") in view of Nuxeo, *Collaborative Portal Server*, 16 April 2002 (hereinafter "Nuxeo"). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi in view of Nuxeo, and further in view of Koch et al., *Using Component Technology for Group Editors - The Iris Group Editor Environment*, 30 September 1997. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1, as amended, now recites a "display manager . . . configured to concurrently display on the display screen a tree diagram of the document and a plurality of zones with tabs for the document, each level of the tree diagram being identified according to a level indicator, each of the plurality of zones corresponding to a node of the tree diagram and further providing contents of the class instances existing in the corresponding node of the tree diagram." Hayashi fails to disclose this limitation. Specifically, the portion on page 3, lines 28-30 that is relied on by the Examiner simply teaches that a document can be represented by a tree structure. Nothing in this portion of Hayashi is there a teaching or suggestion that the tree structure is actually displayed, and much less, of the "concurrent[] display" that is now claimed in claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, also recites that "the processor is configured to only authorize access to the document according to access rights of a user concerned determined by the document user rights manager," and "if the document is accessed, the processor device is configured to only authorize validation of a zone displayed for the document according to validation rights of the user concerned, as determined by the document user rights manager." Hayashi fails to disclose these limitations. Specifically, the portion on page 3, lines 53-57 relied on by the Examiner describes that "when a plurality of authors edits a content in the same node, a

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plurality of new version nodes, each of which corresponds to the content portion edited by the each author, are created." This is a mere description of access management for various authors. In fact, all of page 3 of Hayashi describes a general method for conventional version management of a document which is based on a tree structure. Hayashi, however, fails to disclose the claimed "validation" strategy associated with a displayed "zone" as is now claimed in claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, further requires "a second mechanism for raising, when all of the nodes at a level of a current node associated with a current zone are validated based on the level indicators of the nodes of the tree diagram, a validated status for a node of the tree display, to a level higher than the level of the current node," and "when a head of the tree diagram is validated, the processor device is configured to authorize signature for an entirety of the document by a user having corresponding signature rights . . ." These features are particularly advantageous in that they allow different people working on a specific version of a document to have a global view of the status of a given project while enforcing proper versioning management.

The Examiner acknowledges that Hayashi fails to disclose a similar "second mechanism" and signature authorization strategy originally claimed in claim 1. However, he relies on Nuxeo to make up for this deficiency.

Nuxeo describes a collaborative portal server in which individual contributors may collaborate in collaborating spaces. In the paragraph "*Chaîne de validation*", Nuxeo discloses that a collaboratively established document is submitted to each section manager which may be concerned by the content of this document.

Then "*Chaque responsable valide ou rejette le document pour publication dans sa rubrique (et non globalement), en y ajoutant des commentaires justifiant son choix*". This means that "*each manager validates or rejects the document for publication in his section (not globally), and adds comments justifying his choice*".

Thus, Nuxeo merely discloses a collaborative publication system in which an article related to various sections may or may not be published in each of these sections, depending on

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the opinion of the section manager. Specifically, Nuxeo describes a multi-section publication system, and hence, the validations of multiple sections, whereas claim 1 recites that "when a head of the tree diagram is validated, the processor device is configured to authorize signature for an entirety of the document by a user having corresponding signature rights." (Emphasis added). In fact, in Nuxeo, some section managers may validate a section, and some may not validate other sections.

Furthermore, Nuxeo describes a one level validation scheme, whereas claim 1 recites validation of more than one level of the node of the tree display. A person of skill in the art would have no reason to extrapolate the one level decision system of Nuxeo to a tree like structure of the claimed invention. As such, Nuxeo fails to teach or suggest "raising, when all of the nodes at a level of a current node associated with a current zone are validated based on the level indicators of the nodes of the tree diagram, a validated status for a node of the tree display, to a level higher than the level of the current node."

In fact, teaches away from "all of the nodes . . . [being] validated" in order to "raise . . . a validated status for a node of the tree display . . . " as Nuxeo discloses that each document created in a collaborative manner in a workgroup is directly submitted to the section manager. Each section manager then individually makes his decision. Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

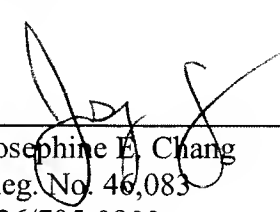
Claims 2-10 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that they contain.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and the allowance of claims 1-10.

Respectfully submitted,
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